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### North American trees

Three years ago this journal<sup>5</sup> noticed the appearance of SARGENT's excellent *Manual of the trees of North America*, which brings into a convenient volume the information that is much more elaborated in his great *Silva*. Now another manual of the trees has appeared, bearing the title *North American trees*, and written by BRITTON and SHAFER.<sup>6</sup> The very handsome volume is made bulky by the heavy paper, so that it will have to be used more as a standard dictionary than as a handy manual.

The distinct mission of the volume, however, is to present the trees in language so free from technical terminology, and by illustrations so characteristic, that they may be recognized by "any person of ordinary information." This will certainly meet and stimulate the growing interest in trees, a purpose that is worth while. The authors are in an exceptionally favorable position to make such a book accurate rather than merely popular, and it is a good thing now and then for men who have the facts to give to the public something that can be relied upon. The identification of trees should now be as easy as the long popular identification of birds. The characters are drawn from foliage, flowers, and fruit, and they are presented in the free style of ordinary description, rather than in the compact style of taxonomy. The illustrations are from excellent sketches and photographs, and really illustrate. The economic value of the various trees is included, so that when the name of a tree is discovered, the inquirer is in a position to obtain much useful and interesting information concerning it. Of course any definition of a tree must be arbitrary, but the authors have liberally included all species known to become trees in habit (with "single erect stem or trunk"), even if they are almost always shrubs.—J. M. C.

### MINOR NOTICES

**Physiology of stomata.**—LLOYD has given us a careful study of the behavior of the stomata in two desert plants, *Fouquieria splendens* and *Verbena ciliata*, made at the Desert Botanical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution.<sup>7</sup> He addressed himself particularly to the question of the regulation of transpiration by stomatal movements, and furnishes conclusive evidence that the stomata in these plants, where there are no complications in the way of pits, plugs, or other contrivances, are not able to adjust the transpiration to the "needs" of the plants. Wide variation in the rate of transpiration is found, quite independent of the

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<sup>5</sup> BOT. GAZETTE 39:301. 1905.

<sup>6</sup> BRITTON, NATHANIEL LORD, and SHAFER, JOHN ADOLPH, *North American trees*; being descriptions and illustrations of the trees growing independently of cultivation in North America, north of Mexico and the West Indies. Imp. 8vo. pp. x + 894. *figs.* 781. New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1908. \$7.00.

<sup>7</sup> LLOYD, F. E., *The physiology of stomata*. Imp. 8vo. pp. 142. *pls.* 14. *figs.* 39. Washington: The Carnegie Institution, Publication 82. 1908.